



## KATMAI CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

### Spring is Finally Here!

Spring is a great time of year here in Alaska, with the days getting longer and winter finally releasing its icy grip over the snowy landscape.

We know it's early, but we're counting down the days until the return of Katmai's bears and explore.org's wonderful bearcams. June can't arrive soon enough!



**Brooks River Corridor Permit**  
**Call to Action: Comments Requested**  
**Deadline April 28th, 2023**



Katmai National Park and Preserve is seeking public comment on the seasonal Brooks River Corridor permit system, first piloted in 2022. Public comments will be accepted from March 27 through April 28, 2023.

The 2022 pilot permit program greatly enhanced the NPS' ability to effectively address management concerns in the Brooks River Corridor. Accordingly, the park plans to continue implementing this permit system going forward. The permit system has already proven to be an important management tool to enhance visitor safety and resource protection and builds upon other actions taken to manage the Brooks River Corridor within the park's 1987 General Management Plan (GMP).

Because it is still early in the development of this permit system, Katmai National Park and Preserve is interested in hearing your thoughts about the Brooks River Corridor permit system. The public is invited to provide input by visiting the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/BrooksRiverCorridorPermitSystem> between March 27 and April 28, 2023.

We at Katmai Conservancy believe that the proposed permit system is necessary. Yet in order to further protect brown bears and the visitor experience as well as reduce bear-human conflict, we also urge the National Park Service to consider limits to the number of permits available. Click here to read Katmai Conservancy's full comments.

**Click here to download a draft form letter in support of the Brooks River Corridor permit system, provided by your friends at Katmai Conservancy.**

The park will also hold an online public meeting TONIGHT at 7:00 PM (AK), April 17, 2023. To submit comments and find detailed information about the permit system and the public meeting, please visit the project website at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/BrooksRiverCorridorPermitSystem>.

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## Tectonic Tuesday

### Novarupta Anniversary

June 6th, 2023



Lasting three days, the largest volcanic eruption of the twentieth century exploded June 6, 1912, from a new volcano, Novarupta. In the process, it created Katmai caldera and the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. Katmai National Park and Preserve was established in 1918 to protect this volcanically devastated region, and it now also protects 9,000 years of human history and important habitat for salmon and thousands of brown bears.

Many aspects of the three-day explosive eruption at Novarupta in June 1912 focused attention on this remote volcano, and it has become one of the most intensively studied in the world. Its eruptive volume places it among the five largest in recorded history. At any time, such an eruption would attract much attention, but in 1912 the field of volcanology was in its infancy. Phenomena not previously seen or recognized anywhere else provided opportunities for a wide range of research. In addition to aspects already discussed, the eruption also led to pioneering studies in eruption dynamics and mechanisms of explosive eruptions, evolution of underground magma systems that produce volcanoes, and high-temperature vapor transport in fumaroles with relevance to metallic ore deposition.

As part of our 2023 work plan, this year Katmai Conservancy will be funding a study measuring Mercury Emissions from Volcanic Sources within Katmai National Park, more info about this important work can be found below.

Tune into our website and social media channels on Tuesday, June 6th, for a



day of Novarupta remembrance, featuring a Novarupta trivia contest, giveaways, and more!

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Join Katmai Conservancy for an online celebration of summer solstice and the return of brown bears, red salmon, and explore.org's cams to Katmai's Brooks River!

# RETURN TO THE RIVER

## SUMMER SOLSTICE ONLINE CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JUNE 24TH  
[WWW.KATMAICONSERVANCY.ORG](http://WWW.KATMAICONSERVANCY.ORG)

Featuring:  
Brooks Camp Updates from Katmai Ranger Naomi Boak  
Bearcam Updates from Explore.org Naturalist Mike Fitz  
Katmai National Park Update from Superintendent Mark Sturm  
Free Giveaways from Katmai Conservancy

This free, educational, family-friendly virtual event will take place online at [www.katmaiconservancy.org](http://www.katmaiconservancy.org) - stay tuned for more info!

## Return to the River Online Solstice Celebration June 24th, 2023

Join Katmai Conservancy for an online celebration of summer solstice and the return of brown bears, red salmon, and explore.org's bearcams to Katmai National Park and Preserve's amazing Brooks River.

Featuring Brooks Camp updates from Katmai Ranger Naomi Boak and Superintendent Mark Sturm, bear cam updates from explore.org Naturalist and bear expert Mike Fitz, and giveaways from Katmai Conservancy, this is an event that Fat Bear fans won't want to miss!

This free, educational, family-friendly virtual event will take place online at [www.katmaiconservancy.org](http://www.katmaiconservancy.org) on Saturday, June 24th. Stay tuned to our website and social media channels for more info!

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## Katmai Conservancy 2023 Support

As you know, Katmai Conservancy supports the preservation of Katmai National Park, its unique ecosystems, scenic character, and associated natural and cultural resources. Below are just a few examples of Park programs, projects, and studies directly funded through our support this year.

### Katmai National Park Staff:

Providing direct funding for Katmai National Park Seasonal Interpretive Staff and Bear Management Staff, training, and equipment.

Park visitation continued its upward trend in 2022 with another record number of visitors to the Brooks Camp Visitor Center: over 16,000 bear orientations delivered, up from around 15,000 in 2021 and 14,500 in 2019. With your support, we'll continue to help Katmai National Park meet the demands of growing numbers of visitors.



### Brown Bear Abundance Research:

The continues to compile a long-term data set using aerial surveys to count bears congregating on various salmon spawning



streams. The surveys now span 5 decades and serve as an index of timing and abundance of bears and salmon.

Yet there is a need to determine if and how Katmai's brown bear population has changed through time. Advances in computing and analytical techniques may

now offer a way to use these aerial survey count data to analyze wildlife populations without using costly and invasive tagging or collaring techniques. The aerial survey data Katmai has collected offer a unique opportunity to investigate broad scale trends in the brown bear population specifically answering how and why the population might be changing over time.

### **Katmai Coastal Wolf Project:**

Katmai's coastal ecosystems are experiencing increasing visitation, changing ocean conditions, and expanding commercial and industrial development that may impact species that rely on the nearshore environment. Wolves are top predators that shape their ecological community; however, we have insufficient information on how wolves utilize marine resources and how visitation may be affecting them.



The Katmai Coastal Wolf Project began with three core objectives: (1) test the implementation and success of noninvasive methods in obtaining DNA from carnivores and their prey, with a focus on foraging ecology (2) locate active wolf dens and rendezvous sites throughout the park, and (3) obtain a minimum population count of wolves living on the Katmai coast. In particular, an aim to elucidate the predator-prey relationship of coastal wolves and sea otters.



### **Volcano Mercury Emission Study:**

What do volcanoes and salmon have in common? Fish samples indicate that some of Katmai's resident fish species have elevated concentrations of mercury, a potent neurotoxin. Fish in many sampled lakes have mercury levels exceeding the human consumption threshold set by the State of Alaska.

Elevated mercury levels have consequences to those who use these watersheds for subsistence and could have effects cascading through the ecosystem.

Mercury levels in fish vary greatly between lakes, indicating global pollution may not be the main driver of high mercury in southwest Alaska. Instead, recent studies have identified local placement of lakes as a key driver of fish mercury levels, specifically a lake's proximity to volcanoes. This study works to determine the importance of volcanoes in relation to mercury levels by measuring emissions from active fumaroles.

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## **Katmai Conservancy Framed Prints**

**Available Now!**



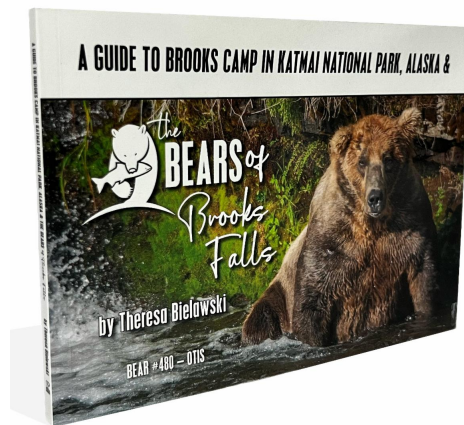
Introducing our new collection of framed, matted photo prints by Katmai Conservancy, featuring some of our favorite bears! These stunning prints are now available and are sure to add a touch of wilderness to any room in your home or office. Each 8x10-inch print is matted and framed in an 11x14-inch black wood frame with a glass cover. Our prints are printed on high-quality luster photo paper, ensuring vibrant colors and sharp, clear images. The luster finish also provides a subtle sheen that gives the prints a professional look. The stars of these prints are the bears themselves. From the largest brown bears to the playful cubs, each bear is captured in stunning detail, showcasing their unique personalities and beauty. These framed photo prints make the perfect gift for any fan of Katmai's Fat Bears!



SHOP HERE!

Prints are available at [katmaiconservancy.org](http://katmaiconservancy.org)

## A Guide to Brooks Camp in Katmai National Park, Alaska and the Bears of Brooks Falls



SHOP HERE!

This guidebook is your go-to resource for planning a trip to one of the most sought-after destinations in Alaska. Brooks Camp, located in the heart of Katmai National Park, is home to an abundant brown bear population and some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the world. This guidebook provides everything you need to know, from how to get there to the best times to visit and what to expect upon arrival.

What sets this guidebook apart is its detailed coverage of the bears of Brooks Falls. Brief descriptions and histories of individual bears, tips for identifying them, and stunning photographs capture the

beauty of the bears and the surrounding landscape. Whether you're a seasoned Alaskan traveler or just starting to plan your trip, "A Guide to Brooks Camp in Katmai National Park, Alaska & the Bears of Brooks Falls" is a must-have resource.

Order your copy today at [katmaiconservancy.org](http://katmaiconservancy.org)

**Gear Up For Summer With Our Katmai Bucket Hats!**

Looking for a stylish and practical accessory for your outdoor adventures? Look no further than the Mike Fitz-approved Bucket Hat! With three options to choose from, including Olive and Charcoal styles featuring a faux leather Katmai Conservancy patch or a Khaki style with an embroidered Katmai Conservancy Fat Bear Week Logo, you're sure to find a hat that suits your taste.



Visit our website to shop our collections



**We sincerely appreciate the incredible love shown to Katmai National Park and Preserve and Katmai Conservancy by our extraordinary supporters, let's continue working together to make 2023 Katmai's best year yet!**